

# Students provide early tributes to their fathers

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Staff Writer

**FEDERALSBURG** — The Colonel Richardson High School's media center was filled with emotion last week as students honored their fathers through words.

"May is typically a month for mothers," said Principal Christine Handy. "But at Colonel, we're doing something different."

With the help of Howard Davis from the Caroline County Department of Social Services, some dads got their due a month early with the first Fatherhood for Now Essay Contest Award Breakfast.

Davis, project manager for Fatherhood for Now, said while the program is geared to help fathers overcome obstacles that have them struggling, he thought it might also be good to "recognize the dads who are doing a good job."

Colonel Richardson High School honored nine finalists and their fathers May 1 with certificates of recognition and T-shirts. After each student read their essays, the father was given their shirt inscribed with a mantra on the back: "A hundred

years from now it will not matter what my bank account was, the sort of house I lived in, or the kind of car I drove ... but the world may be different because I was important in the life of a child."

Kevin Ricks, who teaches English at the school and was one of the people involved with the contest, said that students who participated really poured their heart into the writing.

"[The essays] were really moving," he said. "It was hard to judge them."

However, Carli Borcharding was selected for first prize for the ode to her father, netting Frank Borcharding a \$40 gift certificate to the restaurant of his choice, along with the other items.

Sen. Richard Colburn, R-Mid-Shore, applauded the students' efforts.

"It's great to hear the youth honor their parents," he said. "It's a rarity when we're young to take time to think about what our parents have done for us."

Davis thanked the fathers for helping build a strong foundation for their children.

"Being a father, it's hard job and it's a full-time job," he said. "You fathers have arrived."



Photo by Ben Penserga

The fathers of some Colonel Richardson High School students were honored during the Fatherhood for Now Essay Contest Award Breakfast on May 1. The contest, sponsored by the Caroline County Department of Social Services, produced nine finalists who wrote about the positive impact of their fathers on their lives. Also pictured are Sen. Richard Colburn, R-Mid-Shore and Howard Davis, Fatherhood for Now Family Services Program Manager.